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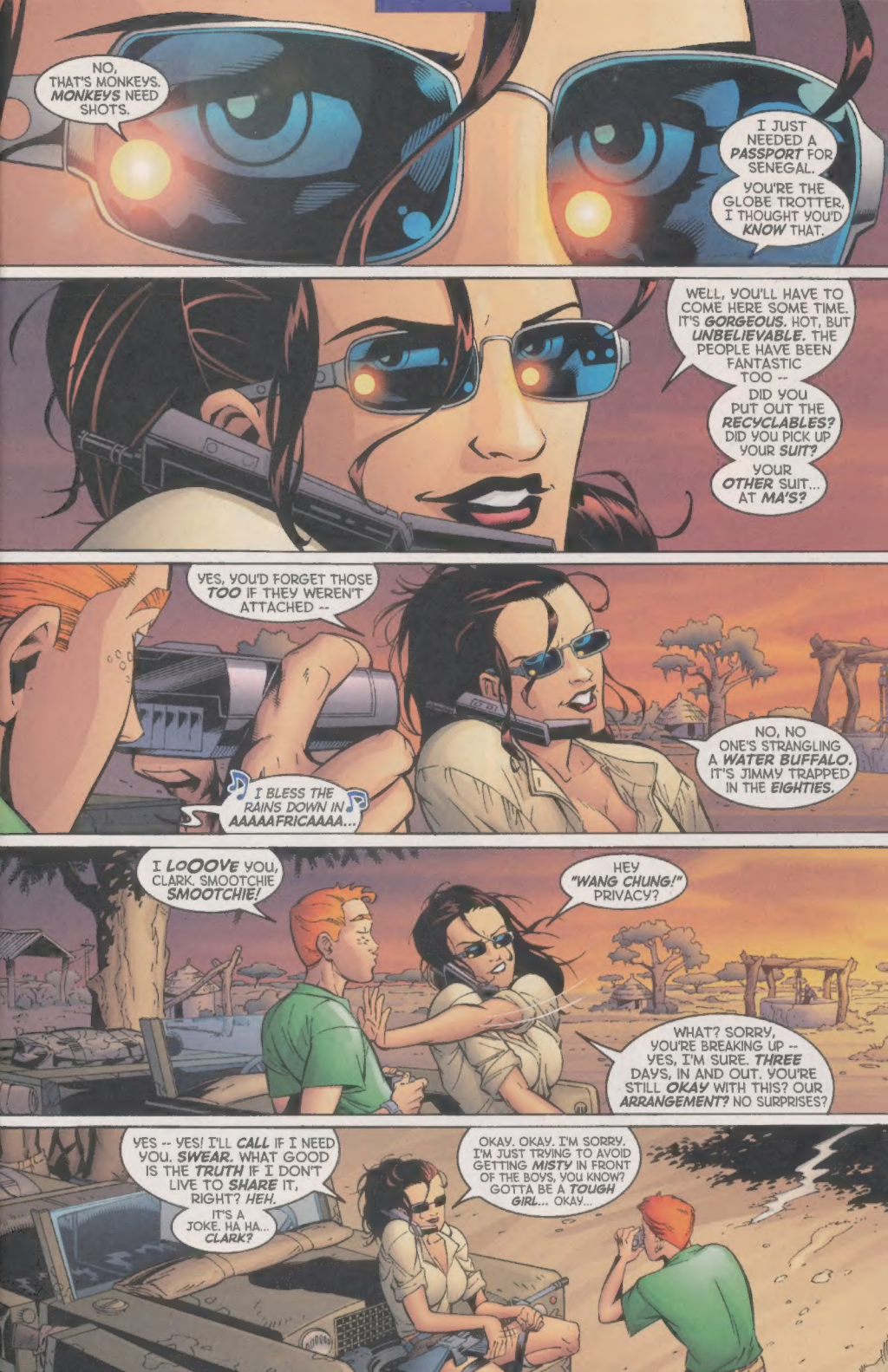
NO, THAT'S MONKEYS. MONKEYS NEED SHOTS.
I JUST NEEDED A PASSPORT FOR SENEGAL.
YOU'RE THE GLOBE TROTTER, I THOUGHT YOU'D KNOW THAT.
WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO COME HERE SOME TIME. IT'S GORGEOUS. HOT, BUT UNBELIEVABLE. THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FANTASTIC TOO --
DID YOU PUT OUT THE RECYCLABLES? DID YOU PICK UP YOUR SUIT?
YOUR OTHER SUIT... AT MA'S?
YES, YOU'D FORGET THOSE TOO IF THEY WEREN'T ATTACHED --
I BLESS THE RAINS DOWN IN AAAAAFRICAAAA...
NO, NO ONE'S STRANGLING A WATER BUFFALO. IT'S JIMMY TRAPPED IN THE EIGHTIES.
I LOOOVE YOU, CLARK. SMOOTCHIE SMOOTCHIE!
HEY "WANG CHUNG!" PRIVACY?
WHAT? SORRY, YOU'RE BREAKING UP -- YES, I'M SURE. THREE DAYS, IN AND OUT. YOU'RE STILL OKAY WITH THIS? OUR ARRANGEMENT? NO SURPRISES?
YES -- YES! I'LL CALL IF I NEED YOU. SWEAR. WHAT GOOD IS THE TRUTH IF I DON'T LIVE TO SHARE IT, RIGHT? HEH. IT'S A JOKE. HA HA... CLARK?
OKAY. OKAY. I'M SORRY. I'M JUST TRYING TO AVOID GETTING MISTY IN FRONT OF THE BOYS, YOU KNOW? GOTTA BE A TOUGH GIRL... OKAY...

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PART ONE
B.B.W.K. TO YOU TOO, SMALLVILLE.
LOVE YOU MISS YOU.
"Just when you've gotten to know a person -- settle down into the who and what you are together, she goes and reveals a shocking and terrifying side you had no clue ever existed... and you fall in love all over again."
-- Clark Kent, Daily Planet. Oct. 2000

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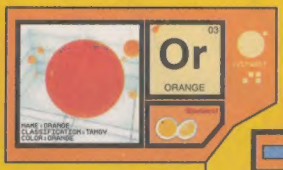
ALL IS ARRANGED, MRS. LANE. LAST CHANCE TO CHANGE YOUR MIND --
-- AND HUNT FOR LESS DANGEROUS GAME.
LEAVE THE PARTY WHEN YOU JUST BROKE OUT THE FAVORS?
NOT IN THIS LIFETIME.
YOU'RE CLEAR ON OUR COVER STORY?
WE'RE A HUNTING SAFARI, DRIVEN OFF COURSE BY AN OVERBEARING AMERICAN DILETTANTE AND HER FOOLISH BROTHER --
-- WHICH JUST HAPPENS ON THE GROUNDS OF THE TRITON SHIPPING CORPORATION.
THERE MI'LADY INSISTS ON PROCURING A BOTTLED WATER AND A NOSE POWDER, AND DISAPPEARS INSIDE.
PERFECT. OSCAR CALIBER PERFORMANCE. YOU THINK I CAN DO "OVERBEARING?"
I'M CERTAIN IT WILL BE A STRETCH, MISS.
HUMOR. I LIKE THAT. YOU SHOULD SMILE MORE, BIM. AFTER ALL...
...TODAY WE'RE GOING TO HUNT DOWN THE FOLKS WHO TRIED TO KILL SUPERMAN.
YIPPIE KI YAY!!

I TRUST HER. SHE'S A -- HHNGH PRO. SHE CAN HANDLE HERSELF.
OKAY THEN. I'M OFFICIALLY ENLIGHTENED. GOOD... FOR... ME.
METROPOLIS. A CITY WHERE TECHNOLOGY KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES SINCE ITS Y2K UPGRADE.
HOWEVER, EVEN IN THE CITY OF TOMORROW --
-- THE LAWS OF YESTERYEAR STILL APPLY... SPECIFICALLY THE LAW OF GRAVITY!
NOW, MAYBE I CAN FOCUS ON WORK...
...EVEN IF I DO HAVE THAT STUPID TOTO SONG STUCK IN MY HEAD NOW.
WHEN THE TWO OF YOU GET BACK, I'M THROWING OUT EVERY CD YOU OWN, JIMMY.
Of course... HE comes.

why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

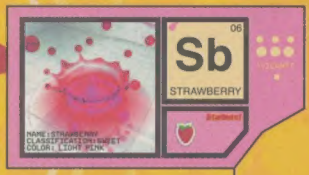
why are there interstates in Hawaii?



why do we still have apes if man evolved from them?

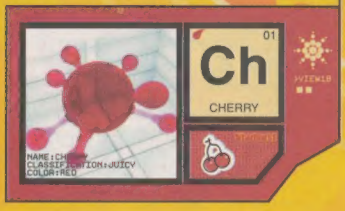
why is alien blood always green?

why are there flotation devices on planes instead of parachutes?



why do drive-up ATMs have braille?

why does a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance?



why did kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

WHY?

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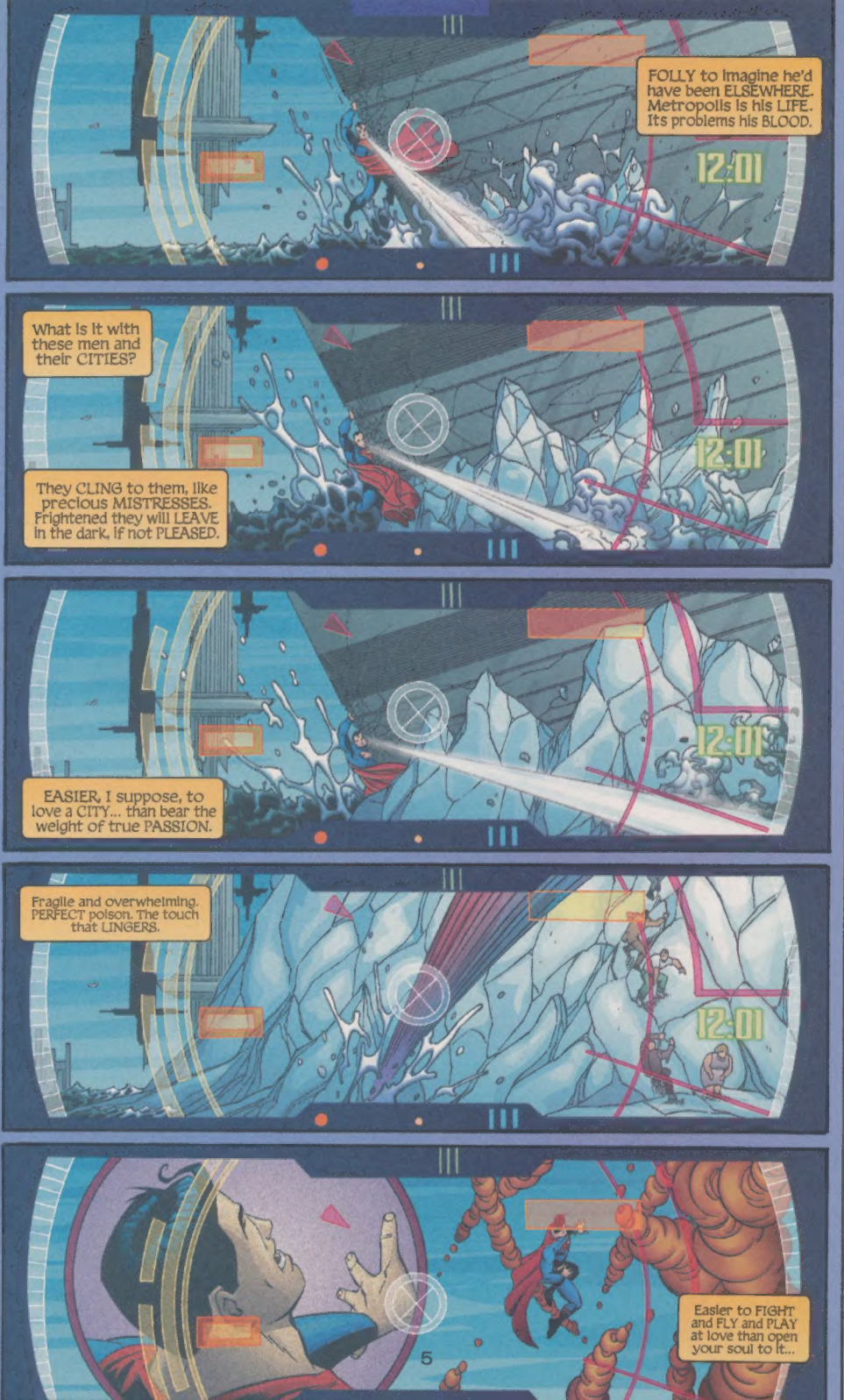
FOLLY to imagine he'd have been ELSEWHERE. Metropolis is his LIFE. Its problems his BLOOD.
12:01
What is it with these men and their CITIES?
They CLING to them, like precious MISTRESSES. Frightened they will LEAVE in the dark, if not PLEASED.
12:01
EASIER, I suppose, to love a CITY... than bear the weight of true PASSION.
12:01
Fragile and overwhelming. PERFECT poison. The touch that LINGERS.
12:01
Easier to FIGHT and FLY and PLAY at love than open your soul to it...

...and risk the UNBEARABLE dagger stab of LOSS.
ENCANTADORA?
Bid your mistress GOODBYE, icon... I fear you'll be leaving her SOON...
...to dodge well-aimed daggers with me.

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GET XTREME.
GET RIGHT GUARD.
that goes on clear and doesn't quit.
Even under the most Xtreme conditions.

YAAGH!
TOOCLOSE TOOCLOSE.
YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE.
HE WAS ABOUT TO SING FLOCK OF SEAGULLS. THERE ARE SOME THINGS I SIMPLY CANNOT ABIDE.
MISS LANE, YOU COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. YOU PAY IN CASH. THE WORLD IS GOOD --
-- BUT WHY DO I BELIEVE WE'RE REALLY HUNTING SUPERMAN'S "KILLER"?
I'LL GIVE YOU THE DAILY STAR VERSION.
"A FEW MONTHS AGO, A MERC LOOKING TO MAKE A NAME FOR HERSELF GETS THE JOB OF ALL JOBS -
-- "IMPLANT" AN UNDETECTABLE DEVICE ON THE MAN OF STEEL BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY
"THE CHIMICHANGA PULLED IT OFF, POISONING HIM WITH HER LIP-LOCK AND A MICROSCOPIC ROBOT ARMED WITH KRYPTONITE
"LUCKILY, THE DEVICE WAS REMOVED, BUT THE BRAINS BEHIND THE SCHEME REMAINED AN UNKNOWN.
"POKING AROUND THE SEEDIER AREAS OF METROPOLIS, I UNCOVERED A SECRET FACILITY BEING DISASSEMBLED BY ROBOTS.
"IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN THEY DIDN'T TREMBLE IN FEAR AFTER I SHOWED THEM MY PRESS CREDENTIALS.
"WITH A FOCUS ON LARGE TECH SHIPMENTS OUT OF METROPOLIS, I FOUND A SHIP CALLED THE KANDIHAR QUEEN, A TANKER OWNED BY THE TRITON SHIPPING COMPANY."
THIRTY HOURS LATER, I'M CHARMING A DASHING PARAMILITARY GURU ON THE ROAD TO TRITON. BOOM, YOU'RE CAUGHT UP.
SOUNDS THIN AT BEST.
THANKS. AND YOUR PULITZER IS WHERE, EXACTLY?

HEY, WHY DID WE STOP? ROAD KILL? OOPS.
SIT. DO NOT LEAVE THE JEEP UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
SURE, I ROLL OVER AND PLAY DEAD TOO.
IS HE A LOCAL?
METHINKS, MA'AM. ALSO SEEM TO HAPPEN WITHIN AN HOUR. NO DECAY. NO FLIES EITHER.
MAYBE SOMET'IN KEEP DEM BACK. TAKE A PEEK --
AIIIIIE!
HSSSSH
NO!
HGGLFSHH MFFHS PSSSSLF!
HOLY... OH GOD! SOMEONE HELP HIM! HELP --
HE IS DEAD, MISS! WE ALL ARE IF WE DO NOT MOVE IMMEDIATELY...
BAKKA RA TUTO! BAKKA RA TUTO!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
ASSASSINS!

LASTIMA. LASTIMA...
¿POR QUÉ? ¿POR QUÉ ÉL? ¿CÓMO HAS PODIDO SER TAN FRÍO? ¿CÓMO HE PODIR SER TAN ESTÚPIDA?
WHY COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN ME?
I'M SO SORRY. WHAT DO I DO, PAPA? WHAT DO I DO?
NOT THE USUAL WAY I'M ASKED UP TO A WOMAN'S APARTMENT, BUT WHATEVER WORKS, RIGHT?
ANIMAL! WHERE IS HE?! I'LL KILL YOU!

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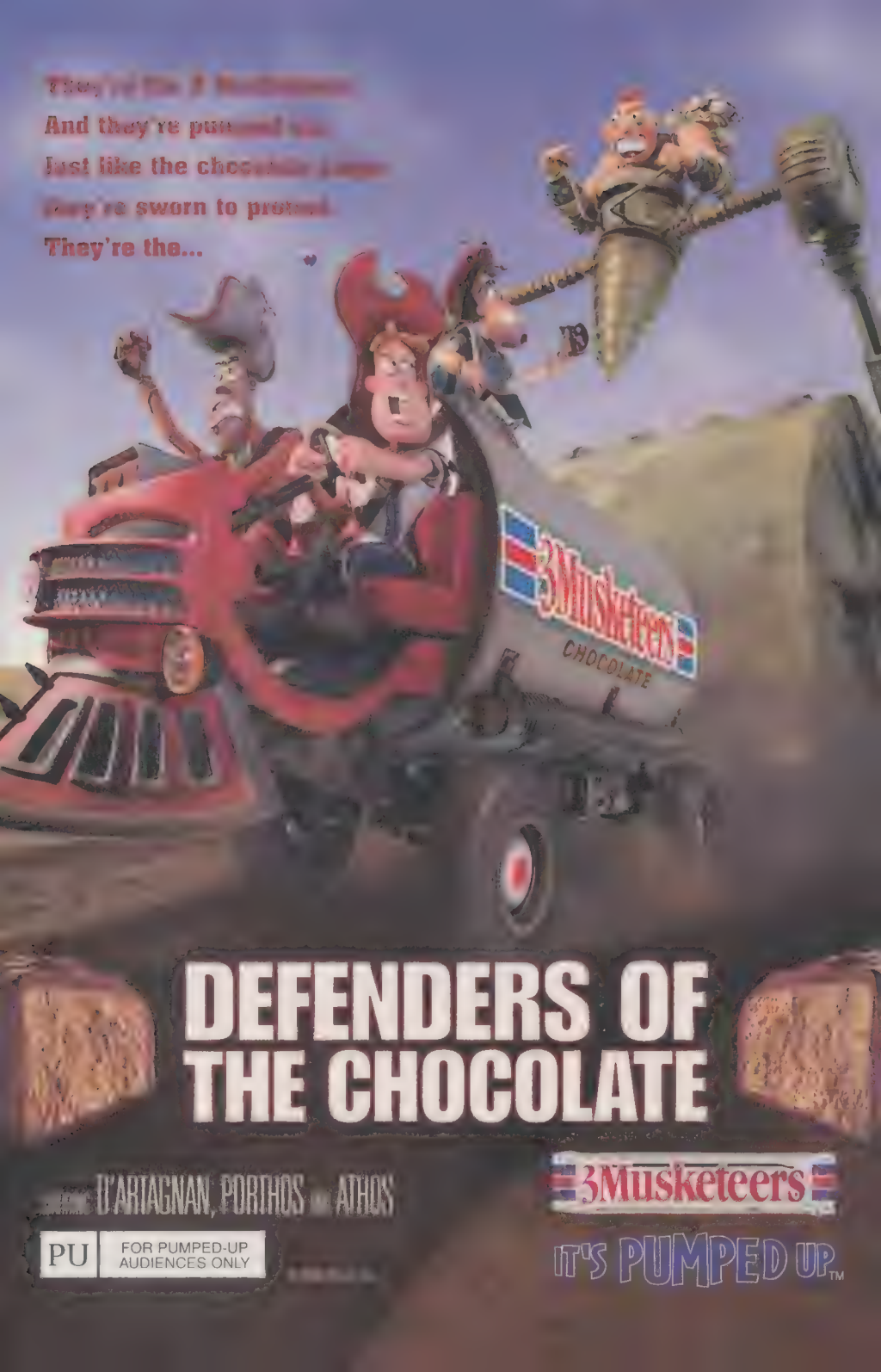
HOW QUICKLY THEY FORGET. YOU ALREADY TRIED, REMEMBER?
SO INSTEAD, JUST FOR LAUGHS, HOW ABOUT YOU TELL ME WHY YOU ALMOST SLAUGHTERED THREE HUNDRED OF YOUR NEIGHBORS.
SOMEONE PLAYING THEIR MUSIC TOO LOUD?
SUPERMAN. I... I'M SORRY, I LOST CONTROL. I WASN'T TRYING TO HURT ANYONE.
HA. HE'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT. SUPERMAN IN HIS ROOM. IF ONLY HE COULD SEE..
ENCANTADORA, WHAT IS GOING ON HERE? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
I KEEP ASKING MYSELF THE SAME THING...
I'M SORRY YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT, NOVIO, BUT LA ENCANTADORA HAS NO TIME TO PLAY TODAY
I HAVE OTHER NIÑOS TO TEND TO.
-DORA, STOP IT.
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME BEFORE YOU REALLY HURT SOMEONE --
TOO LATE, HERO. I ALREADY HAVE.
ENCANTADORA!
PERDÓNAME. LA SANGRE ES MAS FUERTE QUE EL ACERO. ADIOS.
IT LOOKED INNOCENT ENOUGH IN ACTION COMICS #760 -- ED

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU. ENCANTADORA IS ONLY BARELY IN CONTROL OF AN IMMENSELY POWERFUL MAGIC. SHE WAS THE PRIORITY.
YOU HAVE AN UZI CONVERT AND A GRENADE. I CAN HAVE YOU OUT OF THAT CLOSET AND HOGTIED WITH A BED SHEET BEFORE YOU BLINK NEXT.
IF YOU CAN'T TELL, I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR GAMES. SO ARE YOU GOING TO TALK NOW, OR LATER, TALIA?
DO NOT BE SO SMUG, ICON. SARCASM MAY TARNISH YOUR SHINE. BESIDES..
...THE DETECTIVE WOULD HAVE STOPPED ME UPON ENTRY...
...AND HE NEVER WOULD HAVE LET THE LITTLE TRAMP GET AWAY.
THUS, THE FIELD IS LAID, AND OUR GAME BEGINS.

GET THE AMMO! THE AMMO! YES!
DO YOU HAVE THE NEW SUPERMAN GAME?
NO.
IT IS SOOOO COOL. THE FLYING FEELS LIKE REAL --
I HAVE IT AT HOME.
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO TALK TO STRANGERS ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE LOURDES'S FRIENDS?
YES. GOOD FRIENDS.
YOU SURE?
OF COURSE, VICTOR...
MAY I HAVE THAT HEALTH AND THE POWER UP? I WANT TO TRY A MEGA-FATALITY.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And they're pumped up.
Just like the chocolate I wear.
They're sworn to protect.
They're the...
3Musketeers
CHOCOLATE
DEFENDERS OF
THE CHOCOLATE
D'ARTAGNAN, PORTHOS AND ATHOS
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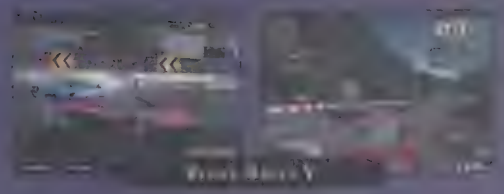
FOR PUMPED-UP
AUDIENCES ONLY
3Musketeers
IT'S PUMPED UP™



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WHERE... EXACTLY, DID THEY FIND IT? DON'T DO CLIFFS NOTES. I WANT LOBES. VISCERA. GORE.
IT WAS A HIGHLY TECHNICAL PROCEDURE. THEY DON'T REALLY DO "GORE" HERE AT S.T.A.R. LABS --
BUT THIS IS IT, YES? THE SAMPLE?
OH, YES -- POSILUTELY! HEH... AHEM.
YOU KNOW, THE GUYS ON SUBLEVEL THREE... THEY UH, THEY SAID YOU'D BE INTO SEEING THIS
OH, I AM. KNOWING THAT THIS WAS IN HIM. SUPERMAN. CHEWING AWAY THAT PERFECT ALIEN BODY.. MMMM.
I THINK I NEED TO THANK YOU, HERBERT. NOW.
WH-WHAT? NOW? HERE?
WH-WHAT IF SOMEONE COMES IN?
HERBERT, YOU'RE SIX FLOORS BELOW SEA LEVEL IN A CLIMATE-CONTROLLED LAB NO ONE EVEN KNOWS EXISTS WITH A VERY WILLING AND ABLE XENOPHILE.
IS "WH-WHAT? NOW? HERE?" THE QUESTION YOU WANT TO ASK ME?
I GUESS NOT. UM... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
THAT'S A BOY. C'MERE... AND TELL ME HOW THEY MADE THE FIRST INCISION...

LET ME GUESS... THEY'RE FOR DEER HUNTING?
NO CHILD LOCKS. CUSTOMS MUST HAVE BEEN A BEAR.
HARDLY. MY FAMILY HAS SMUGGLED ENOUGH CONTRABAND TO AMERICA TO SUPPORT A MINOR "POLICE ACTION."
IN FACT, I BELIEVE WE DID JUST THAT, ONCE, REGARDLESS --
I ASSUME YOU DO NOT WISH TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING LAWS.
LA ENCANTADORA. WHY?
I DON'T KNOW.
...OR ONLY THE ONES WHO REFUSE TO FALL AT YOUR FEET?
DO I THREATEN YOU, SUPERMAN?
...
BRINGING YOU BACK HERE WAS A COURTESY, TALIA. I TOLD YOU I'M NOT PLAYING GAMES --
NEITHER AM I.
FINE. I HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR SHOWER. THE WATER PRESSURE AT METRO P.D. IS A LITTLE WEAK.
ARE YOU THIS FORCEFUL WITH ALL WOMEN.
WHEN I LAST SAW YOU, YOU HELPED TURN MY SKIN TO GLASS. I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND.
...
IN JLA #44 -- ED
14

FATHER.
I CAME TO KEEP FATHER FROM MAKING CONTACT WITH ENCANTADORA. I DID NOT SUCCEED.
APPARENTLY. WHAT DOES RA'S AL GHUL WANT WITH HER?
YOUR SPANISH FRIEND CAST HER FATE THE DAY SHE CALLED US TO THE DESERT TO PEDDLE FALSE WARES --
I REMEMBER. SO YOUR FATHER FELT SLIGHTED, WANTS REVENGE.
REVENGE IS WASTEFUL. MY FATHER WASTES NOTHING. SO SMALL YOUR MIND.
ENCANTADORA OWES A DEBT TO THE DEMON'S HEAD FOR SPARING HER LIFE. WHY HE HAS FOUND THE NEED TO CALL THAT DEBT IN NOW? I DO NOT KNOW.
FATHER AND I HAVE BECOME... DISTANT. OUR PATHS, ONCE SO TIGHTLY LINKED, LIE SEPARATE. BROKEN.
SOMETIMES, I FEEL... AS IF MY HEART HAS BEEN THROWN TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.
SO IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT RA'S WAS PLANNING -- WHY TRY TO STOP HIM?
I RESPECT MY FATHER. I HONOR HIM. I FEAR HIM.
BUT I HAVE NEVER DOUBTED HIM...
...UNTIL NOW.

YOU COULD

WIN INSTANTLY A TRIP TO WRESTLEMANIA

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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Open only to legal U.S. residents age 18 or over. Game void where prohibited. Game starts on or about September 15, 2000 and ends on December 30, 2000. Game pieces can be found printed inside specially marked packages of Comnuts Original Flavor, Comnuts Barbecue Flavor, and Comnuts Ranch Flavor. If you find a winning game piece printed inside a package, you win the prize indicated, subject to verification. **ALTERNATE METHOD OF PARTICIPATION.** To receive a game piece without purchase, handprint your name, complete address, date of birth, and daytime phone number on a postcard and mail to: "Comnuts World Wrestling Federation Wrestlemania Game Game Piece," P.O. Box 9991, Maple Plain, MN 55593-9991. Requests must be postmarked by December 30, 2000 and received by January 8, 2001. No mechanical reproductions or photocopies of requests will be accepted. Each request must be mailed separately. One game piece per request. **PRIZE CLAIMS. Grand Prize Winner:** To redeem a potential grand prize winning game piece, type or print the following information on a 3"x5" card: your name, complete address, date of birth, and day time phone number mail the 3"x5" card along with original game piece to: "Comnuts World Wrestling Federation Wrestlemania Game" Prize Claims, P.O. Box 27172, Golden Valley, MN 55427-0172. **First Prize Winners:** To redeem a potential first prize winning game piece, type or print on a 3"x5" card the same information as on a potential grand prize claim and mail along with original game piece to: "Comnuts World Wrestling Federation Wrestlemania Game" Prize Claim, P.O. Box 9993P, Maple Plain, MN 55593-9993. Retain a photocopy of your game piece for your records. Grand prize claims must be mailed via certified mail (return receipt requested). All prize claims must be received by February 15, 2001. Upon verification, winners will be notified by mail. **Second Prize Winners:** Redeem coupon at store. Coupons may not be mailed by winners for redemption. **PRIZES/APPROXIMATE RETAIL VALUE (ARV)/ODDS OF WINNING. Grand:** (1) 4 day/3 night trip for winner and three guests including tickets to the 2001 World Wrestling Federation Wrestlemania Event. Event date, location and actualtime to be verified with winners at a later date. Winner and guests must travel on dates specified by Sponsor. Trip consists of round trip coach air transportation for winner and three guests from major commercial airport near winner's residence to the city hosting the 2001 World Wrestling Federation Wrestlemania event; 4 day/3 night hotel accommodations (two standard rooms, double occupancy); and four day car rental. ARV: $15,000. Odds of winning Grand Prize: 1 in 967,648. **First:** 300 World Wrestling Federation Pullover Jacket. ARV: $50.00 each. Odds of winning a first prize: 1 in 29,893. **Second:** 100,000 Coupon appears on inside of package that is redeemable for one free 1.7oz bag of Comnuts. ARV: $.70 each. Odds of winning a second prize: 1 in 1.90. ARV of all prizes: $100,000. Winner is solely responsible for all expenses not specifically set forth herein including, but not limited to, meals, gratuities, alcohol and any other incidentals. Prize will be awarded by mail after verification. Car rental component of prize is conditioned on winner complying with terms and conditions of the rental car company's standard car rental agreement. Winner and all guests must travel together on same itinerary. Grand prize winner will be required to sign an Affidavit of Eligibility, Liability Release, and a Publicity Release (where legal), to be returned within 14 days of receipt of prize notification. Winner's guests must execute a Release of Liability and a Publicity Release (where legal) prior to issuance of travel documents. In the event of noncompliance with these requirements, prize may be forfeited and an alternate winner selected. If prize/prize notification is returned as undeliverable, prize will be forfeited and an alternate winner selected. If guest is a minor, guest's parent or legal guardian must sign release for guest. Prizes are not transferable. No prize substitution or cash equivalent of prize except at sole discretion of Sponsor, for a prize of equal or greater value, due to unavailability of prize for any reason. Winner is solely responsible for any state, local and/or federal taxes on prize. **VERIFICATION.** All game pieces are subject to verification. Game pieces are void and will be rejected if not obtained through authorized, legitimate channels or if any part is illegible, mutilated, altered, counterfeited or tampered with in any way or if materials contain printing, production, typographical, mechanical or for any errors. If through printing or production errors or for any other reason, more game pieces than indicated in these Official Rules are printed, distributed or redeemed in any prize category, the actual number of winners in such prize category will be selected in a random drawing from among all eligible prize claims received for such prize category. Only the prizes in the quantities set forth in these Official Rules will be available to be won in the game. Any attempt to defraud Nabisco Inc. or the official judging agency in any way will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and persons attempting same will be disqualified. **ELIGIBILITY.** Subject to all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. The following categories of persons are not eligible to enter or win: employees of Nabisco, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies Gage Marketing Group, their respective parent companies, affiliates, retailers, subsidiaries, sales representatives and distributors and their immediate families (parents, children, siblings, spouse) and those living in the same household as such individuals. **CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION.** Game is subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. By participating, participants agree to abide by and be bound by the Official Rules and all decisions of the judges, which are final and binding in all respects. Submission of game materials including but not limited to prize claims is the sole responsibility of the participant. Sponsor and its agencies are not responsible for late, lost, misdirected, damaged, illegible, delayed, destroyed, incomplete or postage due mail requests or prize claims. All game materials submitted become the sole property of the Sponsor and will not be returned. Taxes on prize are the sole responsibility of winner. Game pieces and/or prizes may not be assigned or transferred. Unclaimed prizes will not be awarded. **RELEASES. By participating, entrants agree to release and hold harmless Nabisco, Inc. (Sponsor), Gage Marketing Group, their respective parent companies, affiliates and subsidiaries, and the officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of any of the above entities from any and all liability, loss or damage incurred with respect to all aspects of the Sweepstakes and/or the awarding, receipt, acceptance, possession or use/misuse of the prize. 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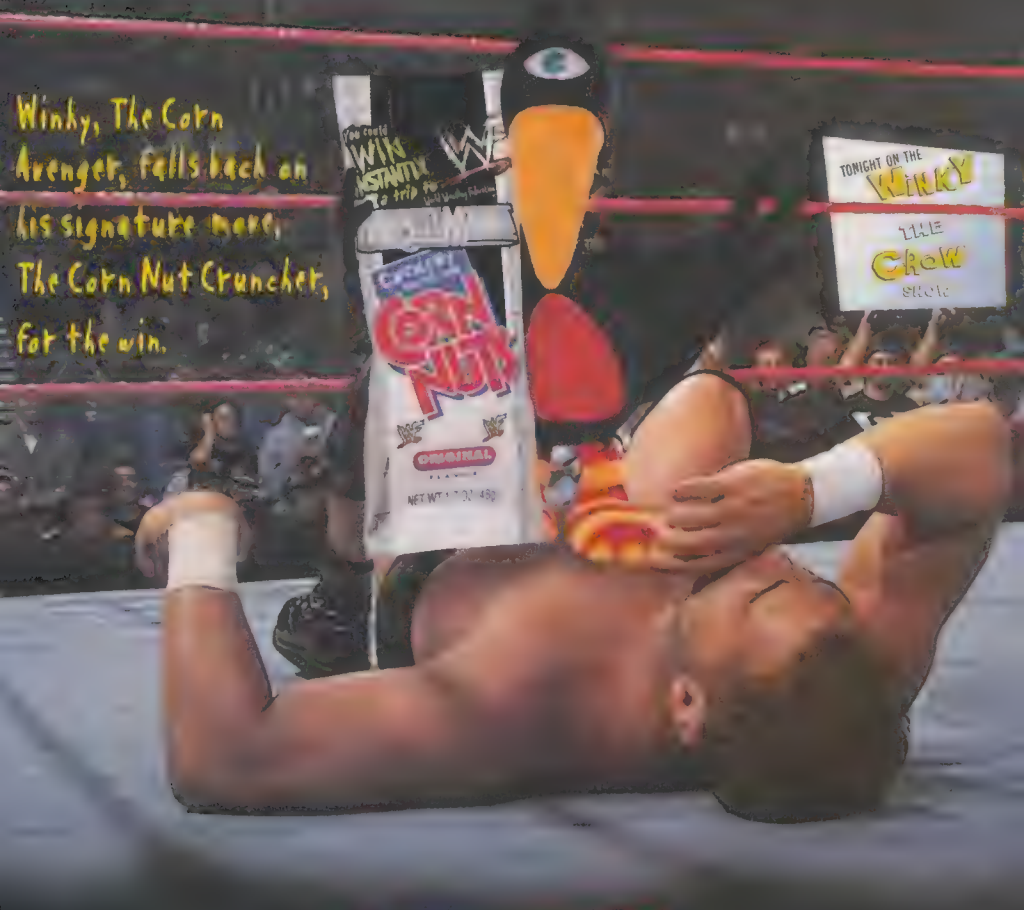
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"IT IS A MOST SUBLIME WAY TO DIE."
I DIDN'T SAY THAT. NOT ORIGINALLY. PERU, I HEARD THAT... THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.
POIGNANT
MAGGOTS CAN DEVOUR THE HEART AS WELL... THEY'RE SIMPLY NOT AS LOVABLE.
UNLESS ONE HAPPENS TO BE A WORM, PERHAPS.
DID YOU KNOW THAT A WORM HAS FIVE HEARTS?
MOST LIKELY.. THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT NATURE HAS ENGINEERED IT TO MOTHER SO MANY OFFSPRING.
HOW UNFORTUNATE. WE CONQUERORS, ARMED WITH BUT ONE..
IF I WANTED TO WATCH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, *JEFE*, I'D HAVE STAYED AT HOME.
WHAT DO YOU *WANT* FROM ME?

...
PLEASE, DON'T HE'S JUST A BOY.
HE'S ALL I HAVE. TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO AND I'LL DO IT. ANYTHING.
"ANYTHING..." IS A BIG WORD, GIRL. SPEAK IT NOT LEST --
ALGO. MECACHIS. ALGO.
GOOD. GOOD. THEN PREPARE TO HELP ME GET MY HEART BACK, ENCANTADORA...
SOMEWHERE IN THIS STRONGHOLD.. YOUR BROTHER SITS BESIDE A KILLER.
HIS HANDS A TEN-YEAR-OLD BOY IS RED CLAY.
DOES IT OCCUR TO YOU THAT A DEFIANT TONE IS MOST INAPPROPRIATE?
AND ENSURE THAT NO MAGGOT EVER BITES FROM IT AGAIN.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER ACCEPTING A REFUND, MISS LANE?
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!
I'M READY TO WAKE UP NOW. REALLY. PINCH ME. JUST NOT WITH A POISON DART.
APPARENTLY, YOU'RE A MUCH BETTER REPORTER THAN YOU THOUGHT.
YOU'VE STEERED US DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS!
YEAH, WELL... WHEN I GET INTO TROUBLE, I DON'T LIKE TO MESS AROUND.
LOIS!
HNNGH!
POOM POOM POOM
TWKK

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TNK
GAAAH!
THE FLOOR IS OPEN TO IDEAS, LADY AND GENTLEMAN!
HERE'S A GOOD ONE. I CALL SUPERMAN ON MY SIGNAL WATCH.
HE MAKES LIKE THE HAND OF GOD AND SMITES SOME --
JIMMY --
-- WE CAN HANDLE THIS.
"WE"? "WE" WHO?!
PEOPLE ARE TURNING INTO HAMBURGER HELPER LEFT AND RIGHT! JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE AN ARMY BRAT DOESN'T MEAN --
HOLD THAT THOUGHT.
POOM POOM
YEARGH!
LIKE I SAID... WE CAN HANDLE THIS.
TRUST ME.
EARS OPEN AND ARMS DOWN, YOU OVERPAID CHUMPS!
BEFORE OUR REINFORCEMENTS GET HERE AND NAPALM THE SWEET SAHARA OUT OF YOU FISTS OF FURY REJECTS --
-- THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO MAKE A STATEMENT DETAILING HOW YOU BOTCHED THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON SUPERMAN SO BADLY...
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?
?
TRUST YOU TO DO *WHAT*, EXACTLY?
THEY *STOPPED SHOOTING*, DIDN'T THEY?
MOTHER WAS *RIGHT* WHEN SHE SAID I SHOULD HAVE PRACTICED *VOODOO*.
"*CHUMP*." TRÈS *AMUSANT*. I SHALL HAVE TO REMEMBER *THAT* ONE.
BUT IF IT *PLEASES* THE LADY... I PREFER TO BE ADDRESSED BY MY *NOM DE BLOOD* DURING *BUSINESS* HOURS...
SCARLET SCYTHE!
NOW, YOU WERE SAYING... ONE OF MY ASSASSINS HAS *"BOTCHED A JOB"*? DO EXPLAIN.
TAKE YOUR *TIME*. LOVELY... THIS ANSWER IS THE *ONLY* THING KEEPING YOU *BREATHING*.

NEW FLAVOR!
RICE KRISPIES TREATS
BEST WHEN EATEN.

I'VE ALWAYS CONSIDERED RA'S AL GHUL BORDERLINE MAD, BUT FOR TALIA TO EVEN HINT THAT SHE'S LOST FAITH --
-- THAT'S SERIOUS STUFF. HIS LEVEL OF POWER AND RESOURCES UNRESTRAINED...
COLD?
IS THAT IN REFERENCE TO MY BODY TEMPERATURE, OR MY PERSONALITY?
HEH. NO WONDER BATMAN LIKES YOU.
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?
BECAUSE I THINK I CAN'T STAND YOU.
GOOD. YOU MAY BE SMARTER THAN I IMAGINED.
MY CONTACTS INSIDE FATHER'S CIRCLE TOLD ME THEY WERE PLANNING TO TAKE ENCANTADORA TO THIS GENERAL VICINITY.
WE SEEK A LAZARUS PIT.
SAME REASON YOU DIDN'T. THINGS HAVE BEEN.. STRAINED SINCE WE CROSSED PATHS WITH YOUR FATHER.
PLUS, IF YOU WERE LEADING ME INTO A TRAP, I DIDN'T WANT TO BRING ANYONE ALONG FOR THE RIDE.
DO YOU NOT TRUST ME?
NO, I DON'T.
THANK YOU. HIGH PRAISE INDEED.
WHY HAVE YOU NOT CALLED MY BELOVED?
FATHER IS NEVER FAR AWAY FROM THE LIFE-RESTORING ENERGIES OF A PIT. FROM THERE. HE WILL CARRY OUT HIS WISHES.
ANY CHANCE HE'D HAVE A REASON TO MAKE A FLYING LAZARUS PIT?
SUCH A THING IS NOT POSSIBLE. THE PIT MUST BE IN CONTACT WITH THE EARTH TO WORK.
OH, THAT'S GOOD.

GUESS WE CAN JUST GO HOME THEN...
'CAUSE THAT CAN'T BE HIS, CAN IT?
GODS AND SAND... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, FATHER? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
TO BE CONTINUED IN THIRTY!

RE: ACTION

Dear Action-meisters:

I completely enjoyed ACTION COMICS #768. I've never really been a Superman fan, but Joe Kelly is making me a believer. I look forward to this title every month, and this past month in particular was a special treat because it featured art by Duncan Rouleau. It is highly imaginative and refreshing to see, and lends itself well to intelligent writers such as Kelly and Steve Seagle.

Kelly also deserves kudos for making each month so emotional, intelligent and, above all, believable! So here's to ACTION COMICS, for not only supplying action every month, but also a bit of thought.

ROBERT HALEY
POSTED TO
DCOSUPMAIL@AOL.COM

And here's to your letter, Robert, for supplying us with many encouraging thoughts.

Dear Re:Action:

Lessee if I got this straight: the reason the Marvel kids' powers malfunctioned is that the frog deity dissected the SHAZAM! powers, so that each was burdened with only certain facets of their powers…and the resulting imbalance somehow overloaded them. The mystery was just complex enough—I guess—that I'm still mulling that over. Of course, the real strength of "Oh, Captain, My Captain" in ACTION COMICS #768 was not in the main plot, but in the details—Kelly's characterizations were a…well, a *marvel* all around.

Then there were the small touches—Lois frustrated that Clark won't give her some breathing room (and, conversely, that he wasn't as accessible as she'd grown accustomed to); Junior, youngster that he is, blathering on about the superiority of Superman, to Clark's discomfort (partially, we discover, because Clark secretly believes it, too); Mary's insistent sharing of the answer to the whole mess, though apparently on a scale the normal human mind cannot comprehend (I think); the awe Clark feels when the SHAZAM! power is coursing through him (the dialogue between Cap and Supes is wonderful); the fact that the solution to the whole mess is not a knockdown-dragout fight (which Superman was fully prepared to wage), but a simple matter of diplomacy; and the bonding between Clark and Cap (including a delightfully awkward moment that bursts into friendship and then a sort of thumb-wrestling match).

Perhaps the best thing about the issue—and pretty much the best thing about the whole line right now—is that I am more comfortable referring to him as "Clark" than as "Superman." It's one thing to theorize about the distinction; it's another for the likes of Joe Kelly and the other writers to make it a veritable living, breathing thing. I also especially enjoyed the art this issue—pardon me for asking, but are Duncan Rouleau and Jaime Mendoza reg'lars around here? Their fluid work and interesting panel structure really made the story breathe.

CHRIS WELL
(CHRISTOPHERWELL@JUNO.COM
NASHVILLE, TN

Duncan and Jaime aren't currently aboard the Super-books on a monthly basis, they'll remain frequent contributors, particularly in times where the "Disaster of the Month" isn't a story arc but just one of the regular guys needing a break!

Dear ACTION Team:

ACTION COMICS #768? Lovely to see the Marvel Family back in action once again. THE POWER OF SHAZAM! was a wonderful book that's much missed in the DC lineup; so good, in fact, that I can even overlook the loss of the names "Mary Marvel" and "Captain Marvel Junior" in favor of a second Captain Marvel (sorry, she'll always be "Mary Marvel" to me!) and "CM3." (Ugh! That whole "CM3" thing really is dreadful!) Captain Marvel really does deserve more exposure, and I live in hope that a place can be found for him in the pages of JLA one of these days.

Joe Kelly's script showed a real appreciation of what Captain Marvel is all about. Supes acknowledging that he would have failed where Cap succeeded was a lovely touch. All in all, this was a wonderful examination of Superman and Captain Marvel's friendship, a friendship that I hope you explore further in issues to come.

You know, this was such a very good issue that I'm even going to forgive you for that atrocious pun on the last page!

ANDY OLIVER
UPMINSTER, ESSEX
ENGLAND

Pun, Andy? Do you mean Clark's "Toad-ally" line? Mebbe he just had a "frog" in his throat. (Heh-heh-heh …)

*Awright, pop quiz, hotshots: Captain Marvel was created by C.C. Beck. What does the "C.C." stand for? The first correct answer earns this month's Baldy! As for the question in the lettercol to ACTION #768, Juan Martin Bartomioli, of Buenos Aires, Argentina, had the right answer: **Slam Bradley** remains a resident of Metropolis, where he serves as a member of their police department. Send us your full address, Juan, so we can send you your Baldy!*

—Mike McAvennie
I say "SHAZAM!", but all I get is rain.

NEXT WEEK:

Get ready for a truly bizarre Election Night in SUPERMAN #164 by Loeb, McGuinness, Barberi, Smith and Vlasco!

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KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL

Matt Haley and Wade Von Grawbadger give us a trio of trouble for this issue's cover with the colors of Tanya & Richard Horie.

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